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COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

TOPIC Air Force Training Fields in East Germany

25X1A

EVALUATION see below

PLACE OBTAINED [REDACTED]

25X1A

DATE OF CONTENT January to 2 June 1953

DATE OBTAINED [REDACTED]

DATE PREPARED

4 August 1953

REFERENCES

25X1A

PAGES 2

ENCLOSURES (NO. &amp; TYPE)

4 - 2 sketches and 2 maps (see note below)

REMARKS

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1. Aken target range. Firing at ground targets was practiced by jet fighters at the Aken firing range between 2 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. on 19 March 1953. At intervals of 10 to 15 minutes, several jet fighters flying aft of each other approached the target range and fired at the ground targets from an altitude of about 200 meters. Radio truck [REDACTED] occupied by officers and EM, was parked on the northwestern edge of the field. Between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. on 6 April, jet fighters fired at aircraft silhouettes marked on the ground. The radio truck was again observed at the field.<sup>1</sup>

2. Barth airfield and target range. No firing at ground targets was observed at Barth airfield in January and February 1953.

3. On 22 March, ten workers were engaged in cleaning work on the field but no reconstruction work was observed.<sup>2</sup>

4. Kreuzbruch target range. In early 1953, [REDACTED] the area of the training field near Kreuzbruch, which had been used as an airfield during the war, bordered on fields to the north, on woods to the east and south, and on the Liebenwalde-Basdorf railroad line to the west. No buildings existed at the field except for a low wooden building south of the Bismarck forester's house. In the eastern section of the field there were two watchtowers, each about 5 meters high, and west of the towers were 3 or 4 practice targets, each about 2 meters square, which had already been located there for a long period without being exchanged. Some time ago, workers dug off the grass cover on some spots and filled these spots with white sand. No fence or sentries were observed at the field.

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5. [REDACTED] before the practices started, Soviets arrived on trucks and occupied the low wooden building south of the forester's house. On the following day, 1 radio truck and 1 or 2 additional trucks would arrive at the field.

6. Firing activity was repeatedly observed at the field in early March 1953. No activity was conducted between 29 May and 2 June 1953, except on 1 June. At 8 a.m., two MIG-15s flying in element formation approached at an altitude of about 1,500 meters, flew a large left bank over the field while increasing the distance from each other and shortly afterward, fired 3 or 4 shots<sup>3</sup>.

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8. Kremmen bomb range. During the period from 28 April to 10 May 1953, practices were observed at the Kremmen range only on 4 May while there was a high ceiling. Two formations, one of two and one of four single-engine planes, flew over the field at about 11:15 a.m. The formation of four planes broke up while circling widely over the field and reducing the altitude to 300 or 250 meters. Subsequently, the two planes flying in an element released one bomb each and, in horizontal flight, practiced the release of individual bombs. A total of 18 bombs were dropped. On the other days of observation, duds were collected and demolished and bomb crates were filled and leveled again.

9. During the period from 17 to 24 May 1953, bombing was practiced by four single-engine planes which came down to an altitude of about 200 meters for releasing their bombs over the swamp referred to as Luch.

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10. Rotscherlinde target range. [redacted] the Rotscherlinde target range was about 10 km south of Brandenburg and west of highway No 102. The exact field boundary could not be observed as no fence or signboards were available. The eastern edge of the field was about 100 meters west of highway No 102, west of Rotscherlinde, the western edge was near the Brandenburg-Belsig railroad line, and the northern edge bordered on the autobahn. A farmhouse of Rotscherlinde was permanently occupied by a detail of about 12 soldiers. The high lookout post, 8 to 10 meters high, on the southern edge of the field, was not occupied on 14 May. [redacted] firing at targets was practiced by jet fighters and that cartridge cases of weapons with a caliber of 20 to 40 mm were repeatedly found in the vicinity of the field.

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1. Comment. The Aken range is used by the fighter regiment stationed at Koethen airfield. [redacted]

[redacted] the location of the firing range on a map at a scale of 1:25,000. For map section, see Annex 1.

2. Comment. The former airfield at Barth is used as target range by the fighter regiments of the Twenty-Fourth Air Army stationed at Puetnitz airfield.

3. Comment. It was reported previously that the area was used as target range by fighter planes. [redacted] as the target range is not far from Finow it is probably used by the fighter regiments stationed at Finow airfield. For location sketch, see Annex 2.

4. Comment. For sketch of the Kuhhorst target range, see Annex 4. Previously, the field was probably used by the fighter regiments at Finow airfield.

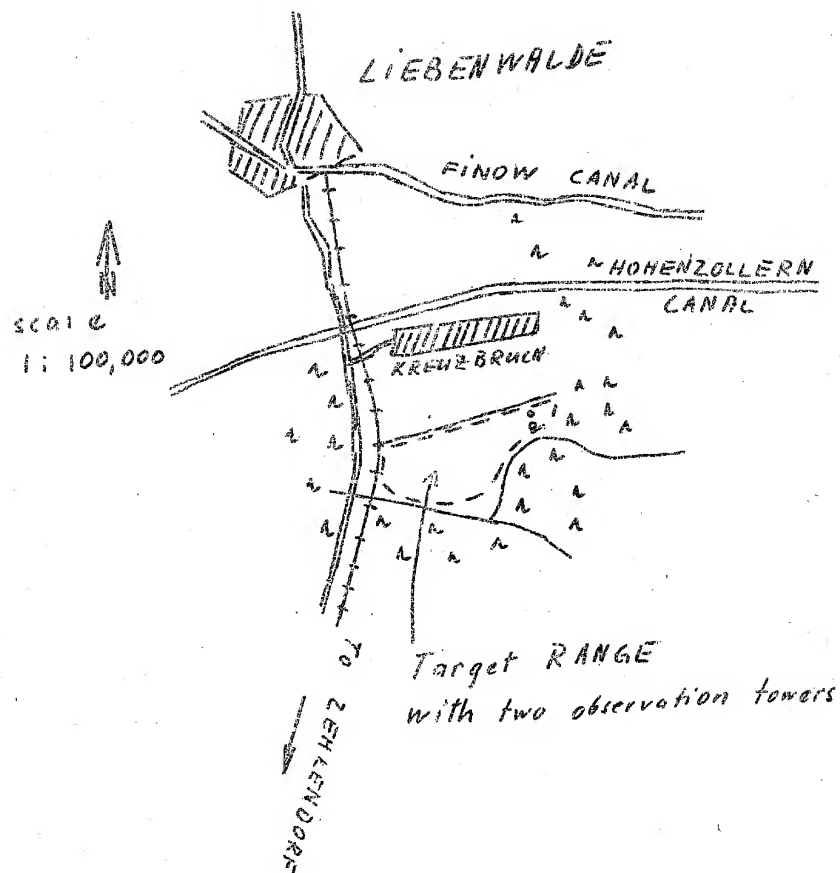
5. Comment. The Kremmen range is used by the ground attack units of the Twenty-Fourth Air Army which practice firing at ground targets and bombing there. [redacted]

6. Comment. For location of the Rotscherlinde target range, see Annex 3 which is a map section at a scale of 1:25,000. The field boundaries are entered on the basis of previous information. The target range is used by the fighter regiment stationed at Brandenburg-Briest airfield.

Note: Annexes 2 and 4 are attached to all copies of the report. Annexes 1 and 3 are disseminated as follows: Army (12), Air (6), OCI (2).

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Kreuzbruch Target Range

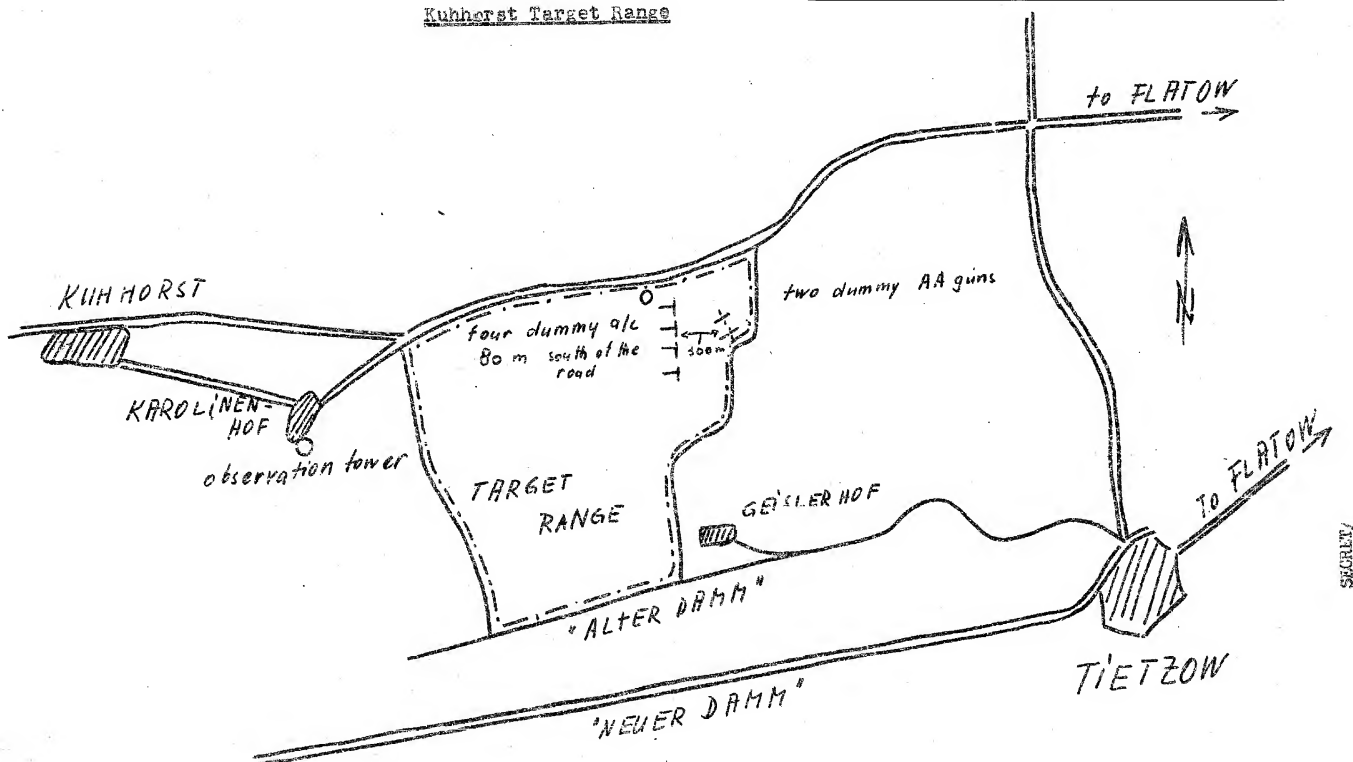
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Kuhhorst Target Range



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